The People's Korea

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North-South Working-Level Meeting Held in Panmunjom For PM Talks on Reunification

—Hot Line Reopened, Next Meet Slated for Feb. 19—

Working-level representatives of the Pyongyang and Seoul sides met at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Neutral National Supervisory Commission at the truce village of Panmunjom on Feb. 6. The main business of the meeting was to set the stage for a premiers meeting for reunification. (KCNA)

Working-level delegates of north and south Korea Feb. 6 got together in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom to arrange a contact between the premiers of the north and south, KCNA reported.

Attending the contact on the Pyongyang side were chief delegate Hyon Jun Guk, Vice-Director of a Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Councillor of the Administration Council, and delegates Rim Chun Gil and Paek Jung Hyok, department directors of the Administration Council.

Present on the Seoul side were Kim Yong Ju, Chong Jong Sik and Li Dong Bok.

At the first preliminary meeting both sides agreed to reopen direct telephone lines, and consented to hold the second meeting at the Panmunkak at 10 a.m. Feb. 19.

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Panmunjom was bustling with home and foreign reporters who came to cover the contact between the working-level delegates of the two sides. Foreign ambassadors to the DPRK and many other personages also came out there with deep interest in the Korean people's cause of reunification.

Entering the conference room at 10:00, the delegates of the Pyongyang side received the delegates of the south with compatriotic feelings and exchanged greetings with them.

Forget Past and Difference

Hyon Jun Guk, chief delegate of the Pyongyang side, spoke at the contact.

The present complicated international situation, he said, makes it urgent for our nation to be more awakened than ever before and pave the way for reunification through national unity and collaboration, rejecting outside forces.

If an end is to be put to the bygone history recorded with antagonism and confrontation and the north and south are to collaborate and unite, they should, first of all, meet each other and exchange views.

Only when personnel of the north and south meet often to discuss the reunification question and many people exchange views, can they in this course narrow the difference of views, epitomize the will of the nation and find a common denominator for reunification.

It was, he emphasized, from this stand and faith of ours that on Jan. 11 we sent letters to the authorities and responsible persons of political parties and organizations of the south, proposing to meet each other for the discussion of all the questions concerning dialogue and reunification without reserve and a letter to the same effect was sent to the prime minister of the south, too.

We, therefore, consider it an affirmative response conforming to our expectation that the south expressed through its reply dated January 24 an agreement to the proposal of our side to have a direct meeting of the premiers of the north and the south and rejoice over the realization of this contact between the working-level delegates following a principled agreement on the contact between the premiers of the two sides, he said, and went on:

Preparations for Premiers' Meet

With an agreement already reached on the contact between the premiers, what remains now are practical preparations for its realization. And to consult and decide on this is the duty assigned to us working-level delegates, we think.

The task of us working level delegates to successfully prepare contact between the premiers is, needless to say, weighty and important.

If both sides bend efforts for an early realization of the contact between the premiers with sincerity and generosity, our consultation will progress smoothly and a success hoped for will be attained.

Considering your side will share our view on this point, we express the hope that the working-level delegates will successfully conclude this contact with one accord and arrange the significant meeting of the premiers of the two sides as early as possible.

Serious Commitment To Reunion

As a matter of common knowledge, President Kim Il Sung, in his historic report to the central celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, clarified the policy of solving the country's reunification question through dialogue and negotiation and the Pyongyang side has taken important initiatives and one practical step after another to implement it in nearly one year and a half.

It should be noted that last year, on Pyongyang's active initiative, there took place three rounds of contact between liaison delegates of the north and the south for forming a preparatory committee for national reunification.

In view of the new situation created within and without, the Pyongyang side again appealed to the Seoul side recently to find a way out for the nation through collaboration, unity and reunification and, on January 11, sent responsible persons of the south Korean political parties, organizations and authorities letters calling for multilateral or bilateral contacts for arranging north-south dialogue and promoting the independent reunification of the country. As part of them, the two sides reached an agreement this time to have, to begin with, a contact between the premiers of the north and the south and the contact between working-level delegates was taking place to arrange it.

Pyongyang's 7-Point Proposal

At the first contact, the chief delegate of the Pyongyang side put forward the following proposals concerning practical and procedural matters: the venue of the premiers' contact, members of the suites, the procedure of travel, and date.

1. The Question of Venue

We think it most reasonable to choose Pyongyang and Seoul as the venue of contact between the premiers.

As Pyongyang and Seoul are well provided with all conditions needed for guaranteeing the contact of such high-level as premiership, we think it is reasonable and natural to have contacts there.

Accordingly, we consider it advisable to follow experience and precedent of the past when we had talks travelling between Pyongyang and Seoul.

2. The Question of the Composition of the Members of the Suites

The premiers' contact being a high-ranking contact, we think a considerable size of suites are necessary.

There should be advisers to the premiers in person and experts for satisfactorily guaranteeing the premiers' contact.

And there should also be technical and service personnel and newsmen to cover the premiers' contact.

Taking all these matters into account, we think it proper to fix the number of advisers and suite members for the premiers' contact at about 30, with the same number of newsmen.

3. The Question of Personal Safety

There naturally arises the question of guaranteeing the safety of the personnel of the opposite side, as many persons will travel to and stay in the area of the other side in connection with the premiers' contact.

We, therefore, consider it is necessary to exchange, according to precedent, notes with each other on guaranteeing the safty of the persons travelling to and staying in the area of the opposite side at each contact.

In this case there arise practical problems as to in whose name the notes guaranteeing the personal safety shall be issued. But they may be properly settled through agreement between the two sides, we think.

4. The Question of the Form of Contact

We are of the opinion that the premiers' contact should be held in a flexible way: it may be opened to the public or held in camera.

When it is necessary to have the contact quietly, it may be held in camera, and when it is required to make a good agreement widely known to the whole nation, the contact may be opened to the public.

We think, therefore, it is proper not to fix the contact in one frame but have it in this or that way through mutual agreement, if necessary.

5. The Question of Reporting

In case a unanimity of views is reached at the contact between the premiers and the text of an agreement is worked out, there arises the question of the way and procedure of working it out and reporting the agreed points.

In our opinion, it is advisable that in view of the experience of the past dialogue the text of agreement to be adopted should be worked out jointly and when an agreement is reached on it, both sides should publish the report at the same time.

6. The Question of the Procedure of Travel and Offer of Conveniences

There may be set various regulations on the procedure of travel. But we think that several basic regulations will suffice.

First of all, the period of stay in the area of the opposite side for the premiers' contact should be 4 or 5 days and, as for the concrete program sojourn, it may be adopted through mutual agreement at each occasion.

We are of the opinion that the inviting side should provide in a responsible manner all the conveniences for the persons of the other side coming or staying for the premiers' contact.

The premiers' credentials of each side should be the certificates identifying the personnel of two sides and other detailed procedural matters may be settled separately.

7. The Question of Date

Lastly, there remains the question as to when the first contact between the premiers shall be held. We would like to have the contact between the premiers as early as possible by quickly concluding this contact between working-level delegates.

The date of the premiers' contact at all events, depends on how the contact between us working-level delegates is concluded. So, it seems to be reasonable and realistic to decide the exact date in the future according to the progress of this contact between working-level delegates.

Producing our proposals on the practical and procedural matters concerning the premiers' contact, the chief delegate of our side expressed the hope that the south Korean side would affirmatively respond to them.

Seoul Told Not to Throw Cold Water On N-S Talks

Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) February 5 carried a commentator's article headlined "Climate of Dialogue Must Not Be Clouded" commenting on the so-called "winter mobile exercise," the largest of its kind ever since the founding of the south Korean army, which was staged near the Military Demarcation Line.

It recalled that many leading persons in south Korean authority, together with brasshats of the U.S. forces in south Korea, watched the exercise on the spot, whipping up a war hysteria and inciting north south confrontation.

The article said: Some time ago the Pyongyang side sent letters to representatives of political parties and organizations and authorities of south Korea proposing to them to realize multilateral contacts between politicians of the north and the south and discuss problems related to the reunification of the country.

The south Korean authorities agreed to the DPRK proposal.

As a result, a meeting between the premiers of the two sides is coming to maturity as part of multilateral contacts between politicians of the north and the south and contact between working-level representatives for this is just at hand.

At this juncture the south Korean authorities staged a large-scale military exercise against the DPRK, the other party of dialogue, in the area near the Military Demarcation Line. This is an intolerable challenge to the DPRK and a grave threat to the country's peace and peaceful reunification.

A fine climate must be created to arrange north-south contact and dialogue and successfully advance them.

The powder-reeking exercise staged by mobilizing planes, tanks and guns on the threshold of contact and dialogue will only heighten the tension and mar a climate of dialogue.

Noting that the south Korean authorities maliciously slandered Pyongyang, talking about "southward invasion" during the military exercise, the article remarked:

It is quite an incomprehensible act to bring forward fictitious "threat of southward invasion" and speak ill of the Pyongyang side who took a patriotic initiative to jointly find a way to peaceful reunification and are making sincere efforts.

Last year when contact between liaison representatives of the two sides for a new dialogue for reunification was arranged, the south Korean rulers, jointly with the United States, conducted a large-scale military exercise against the DPRK and thereby laid an obstacle to dialogue and finally ruptured it.

The south Korean authorities must refrain from deporting themselves against the ardent desire and hope of the whole nation for dialogue and peaceful reunification and stop following in the footsteps of the former dictator.

DPRK Olympic Committee Statement

The Olympic Committee of the DPRK and the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee published a statement on February 5. Follows its summary:

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The Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee proposed to the south Korean side to hold talks between sportsmen of the north and the south for participating in the 22nd Olympiad as a single national team.

The Pyongyang side sent to the Seoul side firstly on December 20 last year a letter containing a proposal for having talks between representatives of the sportsmen of the north and the south from January 17, 1980, to discuss the question of participating in the forthcoming 22nd Olympiad as a single national team.

The south Korean side evaded a reply to the letter for 20 days and at last turned down the proposal for the formation of a single national team under the pretexts that "There is no time for it," "There is a difficult technical problem," and so forth.

The Pyongyang side again urged it to respond without delay to the talks between representatives of the sportsmen of the north and the south.

But the south Korean side obstinately refused to accept this repeated proposal of the DPRK under the same pretexts.

The south Korean side has doggedly opposed down through history the participation of the north and the south as a single team in international games.

When a decision was adopted at the 55th Munich General Meeting in 1959 on holding talks on the question of the participation of the north and the south as a single team in Olympiad, it evaded talks under the pretext that it was impossible for the lack of relations between the north and the south.

Later, succumbing to the pressure of public opinion at home and abroad the south Korean side showed up at the Lausanne talks in January 1963 and the Hong Kong talks in May of the same year. But it unilaterally ran away from the conference room, putting forward absurd pretexts. Another talk was expected in Lausanne in August that year thanks to the sincere efforts of the Pyongyang side. But it did not so much as appear in the place of the talk.

At the time of the 35th World Table Tennis Championships held in Pyongyang last year, the south Korean side opposed Pyongyang's fair proposal to form a unified team of the north and the south to jointly participate in it and committed the impudent act unilaterally breaking the talks between representatives of the table tennis associations of the two sides which had been arranged with so much efforts.

If the south Korean side continues to pursue confrontation and split in the sports field, ignoring the hope of the whole nation for jointly advancing to the international arena and displaying the resourcefulness of the nation, there will be nothing good to it.

Pyongyang will continue to make all efforts to form a single national team representing one Korea without fail in the near future for participating in international games.

12 Ex-Army Officers Join NDP

A group of 12 retired south Korean senior army officers joined the major opposition New Democratic Party on Feb. 9.

The group included two army generals, two marine generals and an admiral, all on the reserve list.

Among them were army Maj. Gen. Chong Sok Ha, Chairman of the Security Affairs Committee of the Reservists Association, and army Maj. Gen. Park Kyong Won, former governor of Kangwon Province.

The 12 retired officers said in a statement on Feb. 8 that they chose the NDP in the belief that they should shift their loyalty as soliders to loyalty to democracy and help the NDP take power.

13 DUP Members, Too

Their participation in the opposition Party followed the joining to the NDP by 13 senior members of the No. 2 opposition Democratic Unification Party on Feb. 6.

The NDP, with a claimed membership of some 600,000, has been stepping up a campaign to increase its membership by drawing supporters from conservative and other opposition camps in a bid to take power from the ruling Democratic Republican Party.

KOREA FOCUS

Carter Doctrine Doomed

President Carter of the United States seems to be somewhat out of mind. So at least as a leader of a big country with international influence. He has been outraged by the Afghanistan affair. His response is extreme.

The 1978 defense report of the United States described the Soviet behaviour as a primary concern to its security interests and argued that the military capability of Moscow was 20%-40% larger than that of Washington. Nevertheless, the administration of Carter conducted SALT II negotiations with the Soviet Union which ended with a new treaty signed in June, 1979.

President Carter, while calling the Afghanistan situation the event which dramatically changed his perception of the ultimate goal of Soviet behaviour, made an about-face. As the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun noted in its February 7 editorial, a consensus in the Western camp is that the Russian behaviour in that Islam country is a "defensive action." Yet, Carter branded it as the "most serious threat to peace since WWII," moved to ask Congress to halt indefinitely its debate on the SALT II accord and went the length of calling for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Those moves never picture the American president as rational, yet show no sign of being hastily-improvised or blind-minded.

Who stands to profit most from such hawkish behaviour? It is Carter himself. Till fall last, he fell far behind Senator Edward Kennedy in the bid for the White House. Recently, the tide has become favorable to Carter, who won a landslide victory in the Ohio primary. In the words of Kennedy, Carter stole the issue from the Republicans and won the primary.

Another largest profiter from the hawkish conduct is munitions industry. According to the presidential message to Congress on the new budget, the 1981 budget envisages no growth in the overall expenditures but allocates $158.2 billion for military spending, up 5% in real terms from the current level, with an additional $90 billion for the next five years. American weapons makers are booming with new contracts from the Pentagon for the first time since the Vietnam war. The threat of war is looming up.

On the eve of the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, a deep recession was gripping the United States. Monopoly capitalists welcomed the war as "saviour." The British magazine Economist observed that the United States needed an opportunity to overcome the crisis, for which war must be continued. The United States added $15.5 billion to military outlays as soon as the war broke out. Then, another $10.5 billion was approved in July and then another $16.8 billion earmarked in December. Monthly orders for weapons averaged $5 billion. According to Newsweek, November 13, 1950, the profits for the seven leading weapons makers in the third quarter of 1950 were: 88% for machine industry, 61% for petrochemical industry, and in particular 130% for General Electric in its steel division.

The Vietnam war was another boom for American weapons industry. The war cost in 1965 was $100 million, rose to $20.6 billion in '67, and lept to $26.8 billion in '68, with the total military spending of the United States reaching $80.5 billion, equal to those aggregated sums of money used during the last world war. The peak troop strength in the Vietnam war was over half a million. How many GIs is Carter planning to commit to Afghanistan which he termed as the most serious challenge to peace?

Defense Chief Brown on January 28 concerning the new budge for 1981 said that U.S. ground combat troops could be ordered into action in a few days for the defense of the states of the Persian Gulf and revealed that in that contingency Marines on Okinawa Island would play a key role. The Marines in that island base were conducting a wintering exercise, codenamed "Magex-80" together with their air wing from Japan's Iwakuni base. The location of the wintering drill in the snow-covered mountains near the front line in south Korea suggests it is aimed at particular areas like cold districts in Afghanistan and Iran, despite the strong denials on the part of the American military authorities.

The Carter doctrine, proclaimed as a doctrine for the second Cold War, is doomed to failure as the Truman doctrine was. No unreserved sympathy has been expressed by West Germay or Japan or other allies for the extremely unilateral selfish policy of the Carter Administration. The neighboring countries of the controversial Islam country are out of tune with the American policy objective. Turkey has refused to allow Americans to use facilities in its territory. Pakistan's foreign minister declared that his country and Iran would never want to become battlegrounds of Washington and Moscow armies. He is speaking for the whole of the Third World countries.

14,000-ton Cargo Boat Newly Launched

PYONGYANG, Jan. 25 (KCNA)—The Chongjin Shipyard launched another 14,000-ton cargo boat "Kwangmobong" on January 27.

This cargo boat is equipped with cranes and other loading and unloading machines.

The workers of the shipyard built this large cargo boat in a short span of time.

In the past the shipyard built many ships of various types including 14,000-ton cargo boats "Wangjaesan," "Osandok," "Tumangang" and "Taehongdan."

Economic Infrastructure

Of the nearly 200 states in the world, only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea knows neither inflation nor unemployment nor stagnation nor taxation. The DPRK manages to finance free compulsory education, free medicare and virtually free housing, electricity and other utilities. No significant pollution is detected in any part of the country. The oil crisis or energy crisis currently sweeping the rest of the world is totally alien to Pyongyang. Most of foreign correspondents from Western Europe who had expected the economy to be in shambles in the DPRK were unprepared to see first-hand the viable economic structure there when they covered the 35th World Table-Tennis Championships hosted in Pyongyang last spring. They were surprised to know that any foreign debts had no adverse effect on its economic performance. An answer lies in the unique economic infrastructure whose fundamental underlying principle is Juche as articulated by President Kim Il Sung, the father image of the DPRK.

Self-Reliance

President Kim Il Sung stated: "Only when a nation builds an independent national economy can it secure political independence, make its country rich, strong and advanced, and achieve national prosperity." This principle does not necessarily deny the introduction of foreign technology and materials but determines the infrastructure of the economy.

Oil, a prevalent source of energy and raw materials in the rest of the world, is a most illustrative case. Oil holds an overwhelming majority of power plants in the so-called advanced industrial states in Western Europe, motor cars there and produces raw materials of fertilizers, clothing, building materials and plastics. They heavily rely on imports of oil, without which their modus vivendi and civilization cannot survive.

In striking exception, the DPRK does not rely on oil as a major fuel and a source of raw materials. Coal, locally available in abundance, is in widespread use to drive power plants which in turn drive industry and railroad and trolley-buses. Private cars are not encouraged. Imported oil is partly kept in storage for a long period of contingency. Instead of oil-driven power plants, a large number of hydraulic power stations, big and small, are also operating throughout the country. Coal is a key material in the production of chemical fertilizers, clothing, plastics and construction materials. For example, higher oil prices mean higher fertilizers which make agriculture costly or discourage it, pushing higher the prices of farm products: this is generally seen in Western countries and those under their influence. Yet, it is far from true of the DPRK.

Iron ores and ores of non-ferrous metals are locally excavated in large quantities which make the DPRK free of the need to import them unlike other countries. Iron-making needs normally coking coal which is not found in Korea. Pyongyang, however, substitutes anthracite domestically produced for coking coal. A key indicator of Pyongyang's successful independence is the fact that the DPRK is now a food-surplus country with rugged mountains usually considered unfit for farming, while south Korea is a major grain importer, though it once served as a granary of the Korean Peninsula. Rice, other grains, beans, vegetables, fruits and even sugar are domestically produced. No country can attempt to present Pyongyang by withholding grain exports or sugar exports.

High-technology items, too, are produced in Korea with indigenous technology. Sets of plant equipment for sophisticated purposes are designed and manufactured by Korean engineers and workers. Even weapons for defense purposes are locally produced. It is safe to say that Pyongyang makes 98% of all the needed machineries.

Export; Not Primary Consideration

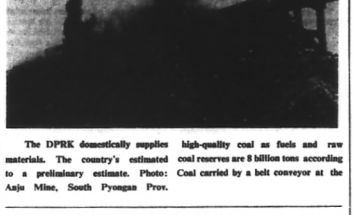
Export accounts for large proportions of GNP in most of the countries. In south Korea the figure is around 80%. For the DPRK, export is a very important part of its national economic life but remains a fraction of its vast scale. Export is not considered a contributor to GNP but is perceived as a means of getting foreign currency and importing goods not locally available. It is also viewed as a way of promoting friendship with foreign countries. Such being the case, any degree of slackening or reduction in trade cannot cause dislocations in the economic fabrics of the country.

To be precise, the domestic market—the masses of people as those qualified to enjoy an ever-better cultural life, material and spiritual in a way worthy of masters of the country—is the predominant consideration. All the branches of the national economy are concerned primarily with contributing to the improvement of the livelihoods of the people at large. This is a chief factor in striking the balance among various fields.

This logic calls for the priority development of heavy industries and the simultaneous development of light industries and agriculture. Heavy industries and light industries and agriculture form trinity in the Korean concept. This policy is entirely Korean and effective, unknown in any other country. In the DPRK heavy industrial plants are helping light industries and agriculture in mechanization and chemicalization, while the latter are providing raw materials for the former. In various parts of the country, each heavy industrial plant is duty-bound to assist the designated light industrial plants and cooperative farms and many other enterprises and farms. All of the three are considered to be obliged to help schools and other cultural establishments in their own regions.

Mines, ferrous or non-ferrous, are linked to steel plants and refineries in the most convenient places in terms of distance, reducing to the minimum any possible waste of resources and time. In parallel with large-scale industrial plants set up in major urban areas, small-scale local industrial plants are operating in numerous parts, using local raw materials, manpower and technology, with each province becoming self-reliant in many areas in the main. A disruption in any part of the economy of whatsoever nature is not to have any impact on the rest of the country.

The question of skilled manpower is settled domestically at universities and colleges numbering 161, found in major cities. With no significant number of students sent abroad for advanced studies, intensive efforts and huge amounts of state funds are poured for the development of high-technology in the Korean way. At the same time, each province is training its own cadres to main local industries and other essential establishments.



The DPRK domestically supplies materials. The country's estimated to a preliminary estimate. Photo: Anju Mine, South Pyongan Prov. high-quality coal as fuels and raw coal reserves are 8 billion tons according Coal carried by a belt conveyor at the

—Industrial Establishments—

Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory

The Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory was named after the late Kim Jong Tae who was the former chairman of the Seoul Committee of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification.

The factory is the nation's biggest locomotive factory. It mainly produces 2,000-horsepower electric locomotives and passenger cars. It is known as a forerunner in the technical revolution of the DPRK. During the Six-Year Plan period (1971-1976), machine shops in the factory produced more than 50 kinds of factory machines and equipment, including large-scale cold rolling mills. Besides, they built three new workshops and increased branch factories there.

After President Kim Il Sung called on the people to achieve the tasks of the three revolutions at the 5th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in November, 1970, the workers at the Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory resolved to turn out new automated machines to ease labour at high temperatures and to liberate workers from harmful labour.

In 1971, the next year of the party congress, they started automating all the facilities in casting workshops. That work was very complicated and difficult. The workers had to draw one thousand blueprints for it. As soon as they started their work, the workers began studying ways of raising their technical levels.

After a half year, a 60-meter belt conveyer and a continuous sand hopper were completed. They also made a trial run of an automated casting machine. But the machine did not work. In spite of repeated failures, the workers did not give up their task. A section chief said, "We, twice-Chollima-Prize winning team members must not be discouraged by failures. We have to throw away conservative ideas or mysticism about technical problems. We are Chollima riders who think boldly and fearlessly practise our ideas. We have to make an automated casting machine even if we meet tens or thousands failures." Immediately, parts of the casting machine they had made were disassembled. They repeated assembling and disassembling work five times and after one year, they succeeded in automating the casting machine.

The machine increased the factory's efficiency twice, doing the work of 40 men. Thanks to the completion of the automated casting machines, harmful labour and labour at high temperatures disappeared from the Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory.

(To be continued)

The electric locomotive assembling workshop of the Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory, the nation's biggest locomotive factory in Pyongyang

DPRK As I Saw (3)

(Continued from the previous issue)

PUBLIC SERVICE

Many state-run nurseries and kindergartens were built in all parts of the country to enable mothers to participate in social activities, liberated from the heavy burden of household chores.

We visited a nursery at a cooperative farm and a weekly-nursery in Pyongyang. The one in the cooperative farm was not managed by the state, because cooperative farms are not controlled by the state there.

The nursery at the cooperative farm had many small rooms for children's groups which were classed according to their ages. The nursery took care of children aged from one and a half to six. Pre-school children (six years old) learned counting and how to write their names, and songs and dances.

In case mothers go on business trips for a week or more, weekly-nurseries take care of their children even for a month. The nursery in Pyongyang was a large-scale weekly-nursery taking care of about 500 children. It had an in-door pool, various sports facilities and fine toys such as we had never seen in Canada.

There was no need to pay for children's nursing. Children wore nursery uniforms (not like school uniforms) when they were there. Mothers went to the nursery to take back their children on a weekend day. The nursery had a children's ward. It generally took care of children in the nursery to prevent their illness, and if a child suffers from an epidemic, the ward receives him and takes care of him in another room to prevent other children from infection. Thanks to good care taken by the ward, even when their children are ill, mothers can work without worrying about their children.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Children are educated under the 11-year compulsory educational system—1-year kindergarten, 4-year primary school, 6-year senior middle school. Graduates from senior middle schools can advance to 4 and 6 year universities or colleges, or 3-year higher technical schools at state expense if they pass entrance examinations. The total number of universities and colleges in the country was 161. There are one university in Pyongyang, Kim Il Sung University, and colleges in all provinces. Kim Il Sung University has two departments, the social science and the natural science. The social science department consisted of philosophy, economics, politics, history of the party, law, linguistics (Korean and foreign languages), and the natural science department is divided into mathematics, physics, biology, geography and geology. It takes 5 years to finish the social science course and 6 years the natural science course. After 5-6 years' studies, students are given diplomas. If they continue studies for 4 more years and complete reports on their studies, they can get a master's degree. A doctoral degree is given students who studied for 2 more years and complete reports. Medical colleges, teachers' colleges, agricultural colleges and mechanical engineering colleges and other technical colleges are found in every province according to its needs.

Some factories have technical night schools called industrial colleges. Workers at those factories can study techniques and other things they need in their work, after work.

Three-year technical colleges are also found—medical colleges, mining colleges, embroidery colleges and clothing colleges.

National cadres are trained at special training schools. Besides, all the leaders of the party generally receive a 1-month study course. Government leaders are educated at a national economics college.

The average educational level of all people in the north is that of junior and senior high schools at present, and goal of educational levels set by the government is to make all people have knowledge of college graduates. Noteworthy about the children's education was the system that children went to school only in the morning, and in the afternoon, they went to students and children's palaces to study their favorite subjects under the direct leadership of competent instructors.

We visited the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace. It had 500 rooms and almost all of them were used by children. Each room had different facilities installed for different subjects so that children could study in a practical way. For example, there were rooms for cars, sculptures, arts, music (there were many rooms according to various kinds of musical instruments), embroidery, gymnastics, dancing, electric apparatus, radios and an astronomical room, a Karate (martial art) room, etc. We saw a performance by the children who had been learning dancing and singing in the palace at the Children's Theater in the palace. The children's palace was built in 1963 in the highest place of Pyongyang.

MEDICAL SERVICE

All provinces have their hospitals. Infirmaries are found in every county and there are always doctors attending patients. These doctors are responsible for the health of the people in each county where they live.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The main means of transportation were buses, subway, and trains.

Buses were always crowded. I often saw long lines of people waiting for buses at bus stops. The subway fare was 10 chon. Numbers of private cars and bicycles seemed to be very small.

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL

Significant Prelude to Full-Dress North-South Talks

On February 6 at Panmunjom, north-south Korean working-level contacts were made to arrange a meeting of two Premiers amid the keen attention of the world community.

We warmly welcome the resumption of north-south dialogue through the working-level contacts and hope for its successful progress.

The last north-south contact was in March last year which ended with the suspension of the resumed north-south dialogue.

At the February 6 meeting views were exchanged on holding a meeting of Premiers. The meeting ended with an agreement to have another contact on February 19 and to reopen the north-south telephone link from February 7.

As well known, the latest round of north-south talks has been initiated by the DPRK which sent on January 11 letters to the 12 south Koreans in and out of power, proposing multilateral and bilateral contacts.

The letters clearly stated the willingness of Pyongyang to engage Seoul in not only broader-based political consultations but also talks between authorities and those at high levels in order to have north-south dialogue and promote the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. This explains the perception of the forthcoming Premiers Talks by Pyongyang as part of its own package proposals.

In any event, the current series of talks is a product of the enthusiasm on the part of the DPRK for working out means of the survival of the Korean nation, north-south cooperation, unity and reunification in face of disquieting developments in and out of the Korean Peninsula. The just-started contacts are certainly a prelude to the full-dress talks, multilateral and bilateral, involving many areas.

Consequently, the latest contacts carry deep implications for the independent and negotiated process of Korean reunification.

President Kim Il Sung stated: "A dialogue and collaboration between north and south are an important way of hastening the peaceful reunification of the country."

It is the most important and most urgent task of our people to have a reunified Korea. In order to achieve the reunification independently and by peaceful means, it is imperative for the people north and south to get together—representatives from various social segments—for a free and frank exchange of views from which common ground will eventually emerge. Then, it will become quite possible for north and south to cooperate and unite for the independent and peaceful reunification. This course is the only effective way of bringing about the negotiated settlement of the Korean question, in view of the pan-national nature of the matter as a life-and-death issue of our nation.

The present complicated international surroundings cry for an entirely Korean and democratic posture, namely, for the northerners and the southerners to forget each other's past records, achieve awakening as Koreans, jointly reject the foreign forces, and cooperate and unite with each other in the reunification of the country. To this end, both the northerners and the southerners must as frequently as possible get together and eliminate mutual distrust and misunderstanding.

The current round is the third since the first talks in 1972. Whatever the outcome of the past two rounds, the current series indicates progress in terms of frequency and is an epochal event inspiring the south Korean people with new hopes.

Owing to the 35 years of territorial split, two different social systems are now in place in northern and southern halves of the country, each with a differing ideology and political faith, with mutual distrust building up between the two.

The "two-Korea" policy remains a Korean policy objective of the foreign splintists. The bid for the so-called "cross recognition" being raised in some quarters is essentially a variant of the "two-Korea" policy.

Under those circumstances, it is important for the Koreans to set the stage for north-south talks transcending the difference in ideology and faith on the firm assumption that only they are capable of terminating the territorial division.

Any attempt of the foreign forces to obstruct the reunification effort should never be tolerated. We cannot repress national resentment at the decision to conduct the present "Magex-80" along the DMZ which is throwing cold water on the resumed north-south dialogue. It is reminiscent of "Team Spirit '79" held in March last year in order to scuttle the then-resumed north-south talks. The maneuvers have been justified by the groundless "threat from north."

Vigilance must be maintained against a new move to create the trilateral military alliance of the United States, Japan and south Korea and incorporate south Korea into the Rim of the Pacific Region Community now being considered.

The foreign forces have most profited from the 35 years of Korean division and our people have lost most from it.

Pak Jung Hi was removed from the scene as a result of the popular resistance as he either monopolized the reunification issue or opposed the reunification undertaking in a bid to perpetuate his "yusin" dictatorial regime. With his death an obstacle to the north-south contacts was eliminated, paving a new phase in the reunification question now in the eighties.

The south Korean authorities are expected to insist on having only Premiers Talks but to agree to multilateral talks. Of course, they should sincerely participate in the forthcoming Premiers Talks.

Genesis of Korean Division

In order to determine the nature of the Korean reunification question and work out a proper recipe for its solution, it is essential to isolate the root cause of the division of the Korean Peninsula 35 years ago. If the author of the division is found foreign, not Korean, then, the question is not a matter of a conflict between socialism and nationalism or capitalism. If so, the most important requirement is to remove the foreign cause from the pan-national effort. If not, a different approach should be sought for. Long years of an intensive effort have been made by the Americans, the south Koreans and the Japanese to portray the non-existent intra-Korean struggle as the key cause of the division of Korea in a bid to absolve the Americans of their primary responsibility for it. President Kim Il Sung observed: "The question of our country's reunification is essentially a question of taking back the territory and population wrested by the foreign imperialists and ensuring national sovereignty on a nationwide scale. ...U.S. imperialism is the very criminal that occupied south Korea by force of arms and has spelled the pains of national division for our parents, brothers, wives and children to be separated between the north and the south for as long as 30 years."

CENTURIES-LONG IDEA BY FOREIGN POWERS

The first to propose the division of Korea was Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the shogun of Japan in the sixteenth century. In 1592, the Japanese strongman proposed the southern part roughly 45 miles south of the 38th Parallel be ceded to Japan, the remaining area left to Korea rule. With the proposal rejected, the invading Japanese troops were routed by the Korean resistance movement and withdrew to Japan seven years later.

Then in 1894, the British government proposed that south Korea be occupied by Japan and north Korea by China with no exact line of demarcation specified when the Tonghak (East Learning School)-led peasants revolted, inviting the two countries to intervene militarily. The two countries rejected the offer, because either was not satisfied with only half the country.

The third attempt on the division came in 1896 when Japan proposed that Korea be divided along the 38th Parallel but Russia rejected the bid. In 1903, Russia proposed the similar idea along the 39th Parallel, while Japan counterproposed a ten-mile wide DMZ between Manchuria and Korea, this is, five miles to the north of the boundary and five miles south of it. The idea did not materialize.

The fourth and last fatal successful bid for the division was prepared by military planners in the American Defense Department. When the last world war was nearning an end, the original American idea was to place the whole of Korea under U.S. control. As the Potsdam Conference was under way, the Americans suggested to the Russians that all of Korea should be placed within American control. But the Americans changed the idea and proposed that somewhere near the 38th Parallel would be a suitable dividing line between the Americans and the Russians. The State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee on August 12-14 considered and adopted the plan providing for the surrender of Japanese forces north of the 38th Parallel to the Russians and south of that line to American forces. Nevertheless, on August 11, the Russians were already in Wonsan and deep in Korea, whereas the Americans were 600 miles away in the Philippines with some detachments bogged down in battles with the Japanese on the Island of Okinawa. So, as a second-best idea, a request was communicated to Moscow that the Russians stop at the 38th Parallel, leaving the area south of it to the Americans. The authors were Dean Rusk and Charles H. Bonesteel.

AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF S. KOREA

Seeing control of at least half the Korean Peninsula as essential to the future security of the American interests in the Pacific, the United States persuaded the Soviet Union to accept the American proposal whose language did not provide for the division but provided for the disarming of the defeated Japanese grops. The Americans ordered the Japanese governor general Abe to remain in charge till their landing and refuse to surrender to the Korean people.

When the American troops landed in south Korea, the disarming of the Japanese forces had already been completed by the Korean People's Committees which mushroomed throughout the southern half. On September 8, the American forces reached Seoul, 72,000 strong, under the command of Gen. Hodge. He ordered military government be established, with the Koreans subject to American rule. This move was completely contrary to what the Korean people expected would take place. The Americans wanted the occupation of south Korea as the rest of the peninsula. They hired pro-Japanese elements who had collaborated with the defeated Japanese masters.

They refused to implement the decisions of the Yalta Conference and then those of the Moscow conferences, envisaging a unified and independent Korea liberated from Japan. They simply used those international accords on Korea in order to justify their presence in south Korea and then make it fait accompli. They suppressed the people's committees and installed Syngman Rhee and his followers in puppet power to set up a separate government in Seoul.

In face of the merciles popular resistance, they attempted to justify their behaviour in the name of the United Nations. In February, 1947, they brought the Korean question before the world organization. Then separate elections were carried out in May, 1948 under the UN supervision to set up Syngman Rhee as south Korean dictator. They were also done by the UN Temporary Commission.

The American behaviour showed that the concern of Washington was far from with liberating Korea but establishing a new colony under its control. *Japan Diary*, by Mark Gayn, New York, 1948, has the following account: "It was a full-scale revolution, which must have involved hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people. In Taegu alone, a third of the 150,000 inhabitants took part in the uprising. It was here that the fuse of the revolution was set off last month. The railroad workers went on strike, followed by the phone and metal, textile and electric workers. As each strike was suppressed by the police, another one took its place. Students went out into the streets to demonstrate, and then the whole city was aflame.

"From the city, the revolution spread into the countryside and was taken over by the sharecroppers. The farmers refused to surrender their rice to the police. They attacked the homes of the landlords, and then police stations. They tore off jail doors to release the arrested share-croppers, they burned the records, and stole the weapons.

"Arrayed against the revolution were the police, the rightist organizations, and the U.S. Army."

Thus, the Americans cut off south Korea from the Korean land without fighting the Japanese and disarming them, which was the genesis of the division of Korea.

Seoul's Rigid Press Censorship

Since the ironic assasination of Pak Jung Hi at the hands of his close associate, restoration of democratic order has emerged as a most effective way out from the crisis-ridden south Korea.

However, of late, last-ditch efforts have been under way by Pak's successors to preserve the old repressive system.

Martial law, a replica of emergency decree No. 9, strictly prohibits the political activities of political parties, public organizations and ordinary citizens and restricts freedom of the press, speech, assembly and association.

Press censorship is one of the means of controlling and suppressing the people's struggles for freedom and democracy, and in the absence of freedom of the press, neither real popular accommodation nor political development would be feasible.

Ex-Journalists Arrested

On December 13, 1979, the south Korean martial law authorities carried out their first crackdown on dissidents since the assassination of Pak Jung Hi. They picked three former journalists who had been calling for democracy in south Korea and freedom of expression.

The former journalists were arrested by police hours after attending a news conference at the home of former "presiden" Yun Bo Son. The detained ournalists were Li Byong Jo, chairman of a struggle committee of former reporters of the Dong-A Ilbo who had been dismissed some years ago for starting a democratic movement; Li Ha Yong, a key member of the Dong-A group; and Chong Tae Ki, chairman of a struggle committee of former members of the daily Chosun Ilbo.

At the news conference, five dissident groups including South Korean Roman Catholic Committee for Justice and Peace also called for abolition of emergency decree No. 9, which banned political dissent, for freedom of expression and for rehabilitation and reinstatement of intellectuals, students, reporters and others persecuted by Pak.

At the end of last year, timed with an announcement for abolition of emergency de ree No. 9, the south Korean authorities showed a sign that they were going to relax press censorship. As part of this move, the south Korean major daily "Hanguk Ilbo" on December 8 last devoted its first page to an article headlined "We want the New Government to Do This" written by Chon Gwan U, the former editor-in-chief of the Dong-A Ilbo.

The former editor-in-chief of Dong-A Ilbo, in the article, severely criticized the present rulers: "The matter awaits winding-up even forty days have passed since the political change in the wake of the president's assassination." He also gave advice to the rulers: "There is a possibility that the Korean grass-roots who are now silent will come out to condemn the government."

On the other hand, over 600 reporters of the "Hanguk Ilbo" and the "Chosun Ilbo" on December 6 held a joint meeting in the former's office and adopted a resolution calling for restoration of freedom of the press.

"Self-Restraint Press"

However, in defiance of these moves, Kim Jong Pil, head of the ruling Democratic Republican Party, on December 12 disclosed the real intention of the authorities in an interview with the U.S. magazine Newsweek.

In the exclusive interview with the magazine, he said: "When press censorship ends after the lifting of martial law, the press should practice self-restraint where national security is concerned. We cannot enjoy total freedom of the press or any other freedoms other countries do, such as a voluntary military service."

Since the start of the so-called new government led by Choe Gyu Ha, they have never referred to the restoration of democracy, which the south Korean people want strongly as never before. And they insist on maintaining the old regime and old repressive measures, while the people want a new political system and a new order.

The south Korean authorities have a long history of press censorship. In 1974 the Pak regime established a rigid press censorship. In October, 1974, Pak Jung Hi ordered all business enterprises not to place advertisements in Dong-A Ilbo, which was speaking out against him. He also ordered papers not to print stories about student demonstrations, ordered many newspaper workers fired, and jammed broadcasts by Dong-A Ilbo's subsidiary radio station.

Whenever the authorities suppressed pressmen, the pressmen persistently and energetically strived to defend

About 100 newsmen at the daily Chosun Ilbo held a meeting in the editorial office on March 12, 1975, and issued a statement demanding freedom of the press in the name of all the newspaper staff.

free speech.

In the Declaration of Freedom of the Press made public on Oct. 24, 1974, the journalists of Dong-A Ilbo said, referring to the task of press in south Korea: "There can be no reason to suppress freedom of speech, which is a fundamently social function, and it cannot be interfered with by anyone, if we are to maintain a democratic society and develop a free nation. Freedom of speech is the fundamental task we must fulfill. It is not a task which can be permitted by the government or granted by the people."

Meanwhile, a Dong-A Broadcasting Reporters' Resolution on the Free Press published on November 22 last declared: "In the absence of freedom of the press, no genuine democratic order could evolve."

"Freedom of Press : Indispensable for Democracy"

Nowadays, freedom of the press and speech is generally regarded as indispensable for a democratic policy.

The Constitution of France promulgated in 1814 said: "Unless the constitution guaranteies freedom of the press, it will become a toy in the hands of rulers." As the French constitution states, it is essential for a modern constitution to ensure freedom of the press and speech.

In his address on the theme of "Free Rights of the Press and Speech" held in Seoul on December 14 last, Profesor Kim Chul Su of the law college of the Seoul National University said: "Since freedom of the press and speech, as one of the traditional fundamental rights of the people, was regarded as a defensive free right of the people, it has been regarded as indispensable for arousing public opinion for democratic policy".

Thus, strict press censorship clearly shows what a nation thinks of democracy and whether it follows democratic policy or not.

Even after the October 26 incident, Pak's successors are reluctant to commit themselves to the restoration of democracy and are least interested in this.

The afore-mentioned Dong-A Broadcasting Reporters' Resolution said: "Now we are determined to get rid of the 18 years of press censorship, to return to the original tasks of the press should be and to use our pens for truthful reporting."

Struggles between the sword and the pen are continuing. But a prover goes "The pen is mightier than the sword."

Stunning New Oil, Power Prices

The south Korean economy and people are now reeling at new sweeping price increases for petroleum products and electricity, while unable to find effective remedies for the January 12 declaration of the won from 484 won to 580 won per U.S. dollar. An average 59% increase in the prices of petroleum products went into effect on January 29 effective immediately and electricity rates raised by 36% on February 1. The boosts follow those in July last which raised the prices of petroleum products by 59% on the average and electricity prices by 35%. The latest price increase means petroleum products 171.9% higher than a year ago. Electricity rates have risen 105% over the year.

The retail price of regular gasoline jumped 67% to $3.79 per U.S. gallon or $1 a liter. Premium gasoline rose 61% to $4.56 a gallon, or $1.21 a liter. The retail price of kerosene rose 52% to $1.117 a gallon, or 31cents a liter, and diesel 54% to $1.14 a gallon, or 30 cents a liter. *(The Asian Wall Street Journal*, January 30, 1980)

Electricity rates for industrial use rose 38% while those for households climbed 29% with apartment dwellers facing a 40% increase in monthly maintenance charges.

Hardest hit by the latest oil price increase and power rate hike, industry will have perhaps the nearest cue to the workers in a form of heavier exploitation and to the domestic consumers in a form of higher-priced commodities due to power shortage. After all, it is the consumers, the people at large that stand to lose most from and have to bear the brunt of the new steep oil price increase. It is the authorities and American-controlled oil companies that stand to profit most. The new price hike obliges the south Korean economy to resort to the doldrum. In other words, the so-called export-led high-growth policy has fallen apart.

ADDITIONAL PROFITS FOR RULERS, U.S. RUN OIL COMPANIES

To look at the components of the price of gasoline, $1 or 580 won/liter: oil refinery's delivery price—171.2won, 29.5%; special consumption tax—308.18 won, 53.1%; addedvalue tax—47.94 won, 8.2%; transportation cost—7.71 won; an agent's margin—19.90 won, 3.4%; a filling station's margin—25.16 won, 4.3%. *(The Chung-Ang Ilbo*, January 31, 1980)

In short, of 580, won per liter, 356 won goes to the state coffers as taxes—additional tax revenues total 198 billion won—and 171.21 won to the oil companies, earning them additional profits of a total of 58,300 million won. From their foundation to 1978, the three oil corporations—the Korea Oil Corporation, the Honam Oil Refinery and the Kyongin Energy Company—earned net profits totalling 96,344 million won, with their average profitability far higher than that of all the listed companies/*The Chung-Ang Ilbo*, February 6, 1980/ The Korea Oil Corporation's net profit totalled 57,904 million won between 1964 and 78; the Honam Oil Refinery netted a total of 32,650 million won between 1969 and 78; and the Kyongin Energy Company 5,570 million won from 1970 and 78. In 1978, the net profits of the three reached 7,909 million won, and their profitability was 24% for the Korea Oil Corporation, 29% for the Honam Oil Refinery and 30% for the Kyongin Energy Company, compared with the average 20.8% for the other listed companies.

Last year the amount of crude the three supplied was 9,710,000 barrels (the Korea Oil Corporation), 6,830,-000 barrels (the Honam Oil Refinery). and 1,910,000 barrels (the Kyongin Energy Company), whereas the authorities bought 200,940,000 barrels of crude from the spot market. The prices ranged from $16.113 to $29.706 per barrel. This year, so far, a total of 4,899,000 barrels have been imported from the spot market. Of them, Iranian crude (1,190,000 barrels) was bought by the Korea Oil Corporation for $42 a per barrel, and the cheapest price was $36.5. The authorities plan to buy daily 100,000 barrels from Saudi Arabia, 100,000-150,000 barrels from Kuwait and 10,000 barrels from Indonesia, all on government-government basis. *(The Chung-Ang Ilbo*, February 6, 1980)

FAR MORE EXPENSIVE THAN ABROAD

The price of petroleum products in south Korea is far higher than those of Japan and other countries: in case of gasoline, regular and premium, the price ranges from 580 won to 700 won in south Korea, compared with it costs 387 won to 399 won in Tokyo, 199 won in New York, 417 won in London, 437 won to 467 won in Paris. 323 won in Hongkong and 381 won in Bonn. With the end of 1975 as 100, the wholesale price index was 174 as of the end of January, while that of gasoline 302 *(The Chung-Ang Ilbo*, January 29, 1980).

Electricity rates are more expensive in south Korea than in Japan and other countries. Electricity rate per kwh costs 50.50 won in south Korea, 27.7% higher than 36.57 won in Tokyo, 38.3% higher than 31.21 won in Taiwan, and 39.6 higher than 30.54 won in France. In terms of bank rates, south Korea is some 10% higher than other countries: 25% per annum for south Korea, 6.5% in Japan, 11.25% in Taiwan, and 14.5% in Hongkong. Export credit is 255 won. The haul was 7,375,000 kg in '77, 7,173,000 kg in '78 and 6,078-000 kg in '79.

The price of oil per drum was 9,125 won in January, '77, rose to 10,276 won in July of the same year, leapfrogged to 17,312 won in July, the next year, and fell slightly to 16,821 won in December last year. *(The Dong-A Ilbo*, January 16, 1980)

Cranes Breeding Ground, Designated as Natural Product, Becomes Dumping Ground for Industrial Waste

A "Haven for Cranes" has become a "place of death." A world-famous breeding ground for cranes, a symbol of longevity, Ryonkidong and Kyongsodong of Inchon has been converted into a dumping ground for industrial waste. The place was designated by the government on December 22, 1977 as natural product No. 257, Yet, the place, far from protected, has changed into a dumping ground for highly poisonous industrial waste matters of various kinds. They pose a grave threat to cranes, known as "VIP's in winter." Even the future of our nation is in jeopardy.

The erstwhile haven for cranes is 30,300,000 *pyong*. It is now a hell overcrowded with industrial waste products.

(The Hanguk Ilbo, January 15, 1980)

Seoul's Drainage Disposal Facilities Paralyzed Because of Faulty Designing

The sewerage-and excrement-processing plants built by Seoul City at a huge cost were found unable to function normally due to a major flaw in designing, leaving the Han River polluted as before.

According to a survey conducted by Dr. Nam Goong Je of the Pollution Research Institute of Yonsei University, the Chonggye River Sewerage Disposal Plant with a daily capacity of 250,000 tons and the Songsan Excretory Disposal Plant with a daily capacity of 600 kl, constructed respectively in 1972 and 76, are malfunctioning, pouring unprocessed sewage water into the Han River.

The Chonggye plant, designed to clean waste water from 300-400 ppm to 20ppm, is discharging into the Han River waste water processed to the level of 180-240 ppm, while the Songsan plant is discharging waste water of some 600 ppm after processing it from 20,000 ppm, despite the 600 ppm is still a dangerously high pollution level.

(The Chung-Ang Ilbo, January 10, 1980)

to exporting industries carries 12% per annum in south Korea, 10.5% in Singapore and 8.25% in Hongkong. *(The Chung-Ang* Ilbo, February 5, 1980)

IMPACTS ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

How to foot the snowballing oil bill is a disquieting major question. Plundering the people is the only way available, because borrowing from abroad is eventualy to be paid by taxes from the people. The oil bill for last year stood at $3.4 billion, but this year the figure is expected to reach the $6.6 billion mark, more than 3 trillion won, which is over a half of the 1980 state budget set at 5,840 billion won (*The Chosun Ilbo*, December 18, 1979). To offset the ever-deteriorating balance of payments (Last year: $42 billion), Seoul has decided to induce a total of $7 billion from abroad in the medium-and long-term loans this year. The projected loan will be used also to reimburse the principal and on foreign loans incurred thus far (The Korea Herald, January 22, 1980). In other words, the $7 billion is not used for industrial expansion but only for repayment of the debts. (As of the end of last year; $20 billion) Therefore, to keep industry afroat, money must be sought elsewhere—most, the lowest possible wages for workers and the most dearest possible-priced goods. And some foreign loan, too, must be brought.

Under these conditions, the inflationary rate is totally out of control, running at over 30%, with numerous companies forced out of operation. This year, the number of bankruptcies is anticipated to sharply rise. Last year, only in Seoul, a total of 801 bankruptcies were reported (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, December 18, 1979). Selling stocks or making paid-in capital increases is no longer effective in raising operating funds. Issuing company debentures is becoming a major fund-raising method. Last year, the funds raised that way totalled 622,440 million won (on 375 occasions) or 76% of the money raised through the stock market (*The Korea Times*, December 26, 1979). Continuing bankruptcies are forcing the city banks to foreclose the mortgaged assets of the borrowing corporations. The foreclosed assets last year showed a steep increase of 200%. According to a survey released by the Bank of Korea on January 22, the thus foreclosed assets totalled 311,780 million won as of the end of last October, two times the figure at the end of October in 1978 of 155,954 million won (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, January 23, 1980).

Foreign companies operating in export-free zones are considering flight from south Korea. Of the 85 Japanese companies in the Masan Export-Free Zone, six closed or suspended their operations last year. They all refused to pay back wages for their workers, the total sum reaching hundreds of millions of won. Back wages by south Korean companies are growing in volume. The office of labor affairs put the amount at 2,220 million won as of January 19 last, involving many manufacturing and construction companies (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, January 20, 1980).

Home Baby Delivery Rate 75%

In our country 75.09% of housewives deliver babies at their homes, a greater half receiving no medical assistance in childbed.

Within three days of childbirth, 2.28% are back in their work.

This disclosure was made in a "Basic Study of the Health of Mothers and Children in Urban and Rural Areas" carried out by the State Health Research Centre's training division in five places from 1973 to 77, involving 503 housewives who delivered their babies. The five places were Ryongsan district of Seoul, Hwasong county of Kyonggi Province, Chunchong city of Chunchong province, Boyo county of South Chungchong Province and Buan county of South Cholla Province.

According to the survey, those women married at the average age of 23.19, and their average age of the first childbirth was 24.48. Of them, 13.4% gave birth to their first baby in five years, and 38.42% two babies in the same period. Their average number of babies born in that period was 1.58.

Of the figure, 21.09% delivered their babies at hospitals and 3.01% received assistance of midwives.

(The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, January 30, 1980)

Teen-age Crime Rate Sharply Rising; No Sense of Sin

Is there no effective measure to deal with the sharply increasing teen-age crimes? Teen-age crimes of late have become not only frequent but also premeditated, organized, ferocious and mobile, totally different what they were once—accidental and on the spur of the moment.

They are "terrible teen-agers" who commit homicide without any hesitation. A most outstanding thing about them is that they show no sign of remorse even after they are arrested by police.

As for their motives, those teenagers cite their loneliness, the impulse of the moment, the lack of merry-making money, and other ridiculous reasons.

According to the Seoul City Police Department, teen-agers account for 70% of those arrested on the 40 ferous crimes like murder and burglary in January. About 60% of those arrested on larceny and other charges are teen-agers.

(The Hanguk Ilbo, January 23, 1980

Foreign Press Commentaries

Of late, various foreign press have carried articles on the rigid press censorship by the south Korean authorities. The articles unanimously denouce the censorship as " uncomfortable."

Follow ysts of the articles carried in: the January 30 issue of the Hongkong paper "Asian Wall Street Journal" headlined "In News-Starred Seoul, Rumore, Are Rife and Wrong", and the January 15 issue of the "No. 1 Shimbun," organ of the Foreign Correspondents Club in Japan headlined "Fighting the News War in S. Korea".

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Asian Wall Street Journal

Here's a quiz for the mentally nimble. Maj. Gen. Chun Doo-Hwan, a leader of the goup of generals who seized control of the South Korean military last month, is:

(A) Planning to shed his uniform to become head of the once proud, still powerful Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

(B) Retiring from the military to take responsibility for the unauthorized movement the night of the takeover of south Korean troops under the command of the combined U.S. and United Nations forces here.

(C) Under arrest.

(D) None of the above.

The correct answer, at least as long as anything remains true here these days, seems to be (D). Maj. Gen. Chun appears to be well entrenched in his old role as commander of the powerful Defense Security Command.

But in the conversation of tea houses and business offices of Seoul, Maj. Gen. Chun wasn't almost that far away the week after the Dec. 12 shootout, rumors about the general's fate ran wild and fast here. And learning the facts was next to impossible.

Indeed, rumors have been as plentiful as ginseng here in recent months. South Koreans, like people in other countries lacking a free press, depend on word of mouth for learning anything sensitive about their government. And that dependence has been especially strong since the October assassination of President Park Chung Hee and the military shakeup in December.

Rumors are "one of the consequences of censorship and noninformation," says a Western ambassador here. "People don't even know enough to filter out what's true and not true."

Of course, there are some limited alternatives to the grapevine. English language television and radio broadcasts by the U.S. military for its troops here are an important source of information for Koreans and foreigners alike. In addition, foreign periodicals carrying sensitive articles sometimes make their way unscathed past the authorities. Photocopies are much in demand. Sensitive articles in imported periodicals are usually cut out.

There are some uncertain signs of change in the government-controlled press. Newspapers are carrying tame but wide-ranging comments by opposition political figures on the issue of revising President Park's Yushin constitution. Any such talk was prohibited until last month. Also, discussion of economic troubles here appears to be frank these days.

No. 1 Shimbun

Once in a while a foreigner arrives the Seoul City Hall with a picture of opposition leader Kim Young-Sam to be sent out of the country by radio-photo? "Sorry, that is not possible!"

I have not come with a revolutionary picture of an opposition personality. Just a story for my paper in Sweden, a piece about the situation in South Korea 43 days after the killing of Mr. Park. In Swedish. The censor's job is to censor, mine is to write. We understand each other. But a language the censor cannot understand? How does he censor it.

A nearby English-speaking officer asks why I don't write in English like everybody else. "It would be much easier for the censor," he explains in a friendly way. Just as calmly and friendly, I reply that a Korean journalist writes in Korean, a Dutch in Dutch, a British in English and a Swedish in—Swedish. He looks doubtful.

I explain, still being friendly, that far, far away—no, not to Pyongyang but in almost the most northern part of Europe there is a small country named Sweden. In that far-off country, never heard of, we are still free to speak, write and read our own language. It might sound strange this Saturday afternoon in Seoul, South Korea, but it's the plain truth.

He understands, explains to the crowd. Everybody seems to understand. Everybody says "yeah." The officer nods at me and smiles. If he says something to himself, it can't be anything but "bloody foreigner." He might be right!

He is back in a couple of minutes and stands in front of the weekly and me. He asks irritatedly if I know anyone who can translate from Swedish to Korean. I recommend anyone at the Korean Embassy in Stockholm. "Sorry I can't give you the phone number, but maybe the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm can. Their number is 08-230000.

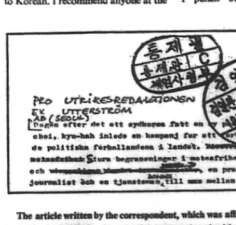
The group remains. The heat from the kerosene stove is pleasant even though it is fighting a desperate fight against the cold in the big hall. I return to the weekly. It tells sweet lies about soft music created when two hearts are beating as one. Man and woman! In full color!

The officer forces me, almost brutally, to return to reality and the seriousness of being censored by the martial law command's censor, with cunning smile on his lips, he offers me a compromise, suggesting that I act as censor. Remove the unacceptable parts—if any, translate the story into English verbally and read it loud for the authorities.

Agreed. After reading through my text carefully I find nothing to censor. When I am through with (both the Swedish and) the English version, is everything ready? Or..."Correct translation?" he asks a bit worried. "Sure check for yourself." And I hand him the paper. He takes it and reads it. We walk, as in a church procession up to his desk.

The big round stamp is banged some 10 times against the inkpad. Hesitation. Pain and worry sambas across his face. What about if the foreigner is lying? What if somebody has to be punished? What if it's me?

Bang! There it is on the paper. Round and red. A short while later in front of the civilian authorities desk. The blase elegant censor works much faster than the military! The thing is over. We shake hands. A moment later I am on my way to the telex at the Seoul Press Club, where I punch out the story myself!



The article written by the correspondent, which was affixed two seals of "control" and "censorship" by the martial command authorities. It shows that the Seoul authorities urge foreign correspondents strict double regulations on their articles.

Brief News From S. Korean Dailies

40-50% of Vocational High School Graduates Assured of Employment

This year graduates of high schools total 480,000 nation-wide. This number and graduates of previous years, 501,500 in all, applied for the preliminary examinations for the entrance of universities, of whom 206,031 may advance to universities and colleges. Most of the remaining some 300,000 will likely try again to enter those schools next year, but a large number of them will have to wander about for 2-3 years till their enlistment in the military service.

This gloomy picture is also true of those wishing to get jobs. The economy is in the doldrum because of the oil shock and a poor export performance. Prospective graduates of vocational high schools are fraught with fear.

This year, 40-50% of graduates of vocational high schools are assured of employment. A major reason is the decision of 50% of large companies not to hire employes thie spring.

For example, the Kyonggi Commercial High School produces some 700 graduates this year, with only 300 getting jobs, down 200 from last year. Some 200 will go to banking agencies, 50 to manufacturing companies and 50 to small companies.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, January 13, 1980)

Initial Wages of College Graduates Frozen

Samsong, Hyondae, Daewoo and other leading corporations have decided to freeze the wages of executives and the initial wages of college graduates at the present level and to increase the low wages of blue-collar workers by 20%.

This decision was agreed upon at a closed-door meeting of representatives of five economic organizations and representatives of major companies sponsored by the Federation of Korean Industries at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul on January 18.

They also decided to raise the wages of ordinary employes by 5-15%. *(The Chosun Ilbo*, January 20, 1980)

Back Wages Growing in Volume

Despite the campaign by the Office of Labor Affairs to discourage the back wages, the volume of back wages is continuing to expand.

According to the Office of Labor Affairs survey released on January 19, the back wages nation-wide reached 2,220 million won as of that day, an increase of 300 million won over the last year end's 1,920 million won.

The authorities ascribe the cause to the stagnation of the economy as a leading factor.

They put manufacturing companies at the top of the list, followed by construction companies.

(The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, January 20, 1980)

Urban Workers Returning to Native Places Because of Living Difficulty

An increasing number of urban workers hailing from the rural areas are returning to their native places, unable to keep the pot boiling with low wages in face of the skyrocketing prices. They are seeking for jobs in local industrial enterprises or home industrial enterprises with free meals provided.

Many factory hands leaving urban industrial complexes are getting jobs in Bupyong, Anyang and other local industrial complexes in the areas where the cost of living is relatively cheaper. Many others are being employed in meal-providing home industrial enterprises in Miari and Songdong. Yet, their average wages between 40,000-50,000 won is insufficient to keep them afloat. In winter expenditures for heating are considerable.

As of June, 1979, the average monthly income of a three-year skilled hand was 59,000 won, with overtime allowances included.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, January 16, 1980)

Many Fishermen Giving Up Going Out Fishing

Fishermen of Kuryong Harbor, a major producer of squids in the East Sea, are reluctant to go out fishing because of an annually declining haul and an annually increasing cost of fishing, including oil and gear.

Many have abandoned the plan to go out fishing or decided to sell their ships, but nobody is willing to buy them, with ships anchored at the harbor. In 1976 the price of sauries per kg was 700 won, in 1977 fell to 520 won, in 1978 plummeted to 299 won and then last year and currently

Efforts for Defending DPRK Citizenship (1)

Japanese Authorities Behavior

The Korean residents in Japan are overseas citizens of an independent, sovereign state, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as stipulated in her Socialist Constitution and nationality law.

Therefore, the Koreans are fully entitled to treatment due foreigners; their human rights and democratic national rights must be protected by the Japanese government.

This is in complete agreement with international law and practices and also accords with the Japanese Constitution.

The Korean nationals here were brought to this country for forced labor and military service before WWII. They had a hard time here, subjected to all sorts of discrimination and persecution. In the view of the historical background the Japanese authorities are obliged to accord the Korean citizens here fair treatment and guarantee all the legitimate rights due foreigners.

However, the Japanese authorities have not fundamentally changed its treatment of Koreans since the liberation of Korea.

The Korean citizens do not fully enjoy due treatment as aliens under international law and practices, though their status has gradually improved through the active movements of Chongryun and the Japanese people.

Briefly introduced here is the policy of the Japanese authorities to the Koreans here and the efforts to safeguard their democratic national rights including the citizenship of the DPRK.

Foreigners' Registration Law

The U.S occupation authorities and the Japanese government decided in 1946 that Koreans who had remained here were subjected to Japanese jurisdiction until their status could be determined by the conclusion of a peace treaty in 1952.

Discontent increased among Koreans with their status. An explosive situation was produced. The U.S. occupation authorities urged the Japanese government to take stronger action.

At the direction of the U.S. occupation authorities, the Japanese government proclaimed a "Foreigners' Registration Ordinance" on May 2, 1947. The prime object of this ordinance was to forcibly enforce the registration of foreigners residing in Japan and to deport any foreigner who illegaly entered Japan without permission. The registration was aimed at Koreans, because 95% of foreigners residing in Japan those days were Koreans.

The ordinance forced the Koreans to carry at all times an identification card, with his picture and fingerprints. The order was intended to fully watch and control the daily life of the Koreans.

In 1949, this alien registration ordinance was revised for the worse. The penal provision of the order was strengthened and the aliens were requested to renew their registration every three years. In addition, the serial numbering of Koreans was started on a nation-wide scale, though originally the Koreans had been numbered serially in each village, town or city.

The provision on procedures for registration was separated from the order and the Foreigners' Registration Law was formulated in April, 1952.

A Korean citizen is subjected to imprisonment with or without hard labor for less than one year or fine of less than ¥30,000, if he or she fails to carry with him or her his or her registration certificate—even if he or she has it at home—and to show it to the authorities concerned when asked to do so; if he or she fails to renew his registration every three years, or if he or she fails to take necessary procedures for a change in the entries in his registration certificate—such as a change of his or her address—within a period prescribed by law—even under unavoidable circumstances.

A total of about 370,000 Koreans were arrested and punished on charges of violating the "Aliens' Registration Ordinance" between 1947 and 1971.

Immigration and Emigration Control Ordinance

Since the liberation of Korea, many Korean compatriots returned to their homeland. However, some of repatriates came back to this country for their livelihood. Under the U.S. rule south Korea was difficult to live in. Some of them illegally entered Japan.

On the other hand, the U.S. occupation authorities feared the strengthening ties of the liberated Korean people and the growing democratic forces in Japan, because the U.S. had pursued an anti-communist aggressive policy in Asia.

Under these circumstances, the U.S. occupation authorities issued a series of notes on controlling Koreans in this country.

The Japanese authorities, at the directive of the U.S. occupation authorities, divided those sections of the Aliens' Registration Ordinance which concerned the immigration and emigration and deportation of Koreans.

The U.S. occupation authorities in September, 1950, gave a directive to strengthen control on illegal entry of Koreans into Japan during the Korean War. Then, the Japanese government established the Immigration Control Agency in September, the same year, in order to integrate administration concerning the control, registration and deportation of Korean nationals in this country. In 1951, the U.S. occupation authorities urged the Japanese authorities to institute a law on public peace and order concerning foreigners in Japan—including the procedures for deportation and the control of immigration and emigration.

In October, the same year, the Immigration and Emigration Control Ordinance was enacted. The Immigration and Emigration Control Ordinance enabled the Japanese government to deport to south Korea those Koreans deemed "undesirable."

Article 24 of the Immigration and Emigration Control Ordinance provides for 24 items, under any of which any person may be deported in accordance with procedures prescribed by law. Among the items are: A person who has become a charge on the state or a local public entity for living, any person who has been subjected to punishment heavier than imprisonment for violation of the provision of laws and ordinances relating to the registration of aliens, any person who has done acts prejudicial to the maintenance of public peace and order.

Since the conclusion of the "ROK"-Japan treaty in 1965, the Japanese government strengthened its policy of suppressing and deporting Koreans in this country.

A total of 24,041 were deported to south Korea between 1953 and 1970 convicted of "violating" the immigration control decree."

The Japanese government intended to revise for the worse the ordinance and submitted the "immigration and emigration control bill" in 1969 and 1971 to the Diet and "immigration bill" in 1972 and 1973 to the Diet. Such move to revise the Immigration and Emigration Control Ordinance coincided with the negotiation of the status agreement in the "ROK"-Japan treaty.

Its main purpose was to suppress and deport en mass Korean citizens from Japan, by defining minutely the resident activities of foreigners.

The plan of the Japanese authorities to pass this bill through the Diet session was scrapped four times in face of strong public opposition.

(To be continued)

Korean Paintings

"Manpokdong Valley in Mt. Kumgang"

By Chung Sun (1676-1759)

Koreans Here Given Access To Japanese Gov't Housing Units

Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) officials were told on Feb. 1 by the Japanese Ministry of Construction that Korean residents in Japan would be allowed to buy or rent houses and apartment units provided by the Japan Housing Corporation and the Housing Loan Corporation, effective on April 1 to come. The Construction Ministry officials revealed that instructions would be issued on February 7 to the two corporations to that effect.

The Koreans will be able to borrow funds for the construction or purchase of housing units from the Housing Loan Corporation on a long-term basis (18 years for wooden houses and 35 years for fire-proof dwellings). The loans thus offered carry an annual interest of 5.5%.

The disclosure was made when Chongryun deputy Chairman Yun Sang Chol and social affairs director Ha Chang Ok met with Construction Ministry deputy secretary general Kuriya Toshinobu and Housing Affairs councillor Ota Toshihiko in the office of the Construction Ministry in Tokyo. The Chongryun officials were accompanied by Socialist Party Member of the House of Representatives Yoneda Togo. They submitted to the Japanese government authorities a written demand for the right of the Korean nationals to get access to government-run housing units.

On February 7, Ha Chang Ok and Pak Jin San, deputy President of the Society of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, in the company of Yoneda Togo, met with the Japanese Finance Ministry Special Financing Director Tanaka at his office in Tokyo to request the Government to permit Korean residents to get loans from the People's Finance Corporation without discrimination and grant Korean credit associations authority to act as agents for various public financing corporations. They handed over a written request addressed to Finance Minister Takeshita Noboru.

In this connection (See The People's Korea, Jan. 23, 1980) it should be recalled that in 1947 Chongryun's predecessor Joryon (the League of Korean Residents in Japan) frustrated the attempt of the American occupation authorities and the Japanese authorities to deprive the Korean residents here of the right to acquire lands and other real estates by purchases or inheritance and preserved that right on the ground of the unusual historical background behind their forced migration to this country. With that inalienable right guaranteed thus, they are now able to possess lands, buildings, automobiles and other real estates while remaining fully-accredited foreigners. Chongryun considers it one of its major obligations to defend and promote the democratic national rights of Korean residents due foreigners, including the human rights as stipulated in the Japanese Constitution and the international human rights agreement that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, the color of skin, language, religion and political views.

Highlights of the instructions issued by the Construction Ministry on February 7 are as follows: (1) access to housing units and apartment units by the Japan Housing Corporation, the Housing Loan Corporation and the Housing-Supply Corporation should be granted to Koreans effective on April 1 to come; (2) local self-governing bodies should be requested to allow Korean residents to buy or rent their public housing units.

So far, a total of 345 local entities have, at the request of Chongryun and democratic Japanese people and their organizations, allowed to Koreans to live in public housing units.

Among them are the following self-governing bodies:

21 prefectures—Kanagawa, Toyama, Shizuoka, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, Osaka, Hyogo, Wakayama (except for those with residence status of 4-1-3 and 4-1-4), Okayama (ditto), Hiroshima (ditto), Yamaguchi (those with the permitted residence period of one year but renewable), Oita (ditto), Saitama, Chiba (those who abandoned Japanese nationality in 1952, residents since before the end of the last world war and their offspring), Kyoto (ditto), Tokyo (ditto), Shimane (ditto), Fukuoka (ditto), Saga (ditto), Nagano (residents since before the end of the world war and their offspring).

8 cities: Sapporo, Kawasaki, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto (those who abandoned Japanese nationality in 1952, residents since before the end of the world war and their offspring), Kita-Kyushu (ditto), Osaka and Kobe.

The Korean residents in Japan will be given the right to buy or rent houses and apartment units provided by the Japan Housing Corporation or the Housing Loan Corporation from April 1. Photo: Vice-Chairman Yun Sang Chul of Chongryun CSC was informed on the matter when he met Japanese Construction Ministry officials.

Short Story:

Happiness (2)

By Sok Yun Ki

(Continued from the previous issue)

A few years back I was in his county once. I saw him at his hospital, where some one told me he was rather serious with an assistant woman doctor. I was pleased to hear this. But what became of it, he did not tell me.

We kept walking, each busy with his own thoughts. I wanted to try again. In a rather grambling tone I shot at him.

"Well, how about it? I think it's about time you should think about your own happiness. How long do you intend to go on like this?"

But he did not open his mouth. His eyes were fixed on the water breaking against the walk sending back racing ripples.

"As you know, our papers have repeatedly written about you. We say you have made a great contribution to the people's happiness. You certainly have done so, and the government has decorated you with the highest honour. But, let me ask you, what about you, yourself? Now everyone is leading a happy life in this era. But what is your happiness? Where is your happiness?"

He seemed determined not to open up on this topic no matter what I said. His pace was as even as ever.

Whenever a bus crossed the Daedong Bridge the whole river reverberated with the rumble. You could see the golden images on the water trembling. Leading against a lamp post he gazed at the Museum of Revolution and the roof of the Grand Theatre. Then he turned his eyes across the river, from where the humming of some machines came, and now and then the welder's torch lit up the whole dark sky. Suddenly he asked:

"Say, Chol! Tell me this. Are you a happy man?"

"Me?"

He caught me offguard. That was the least expected question as far as I was concerned. When I spoke of his happiness, of course it was taken for granted that I was happy. But now such question at pointblank!

With all modesty, I can say that I am doing my share for the Party and revolution, I would not say I am the best in my line but I am not the worst either. Then I have a nice home. There is my wife—I don't know how many women are better than she. And the three children! The boy is doing excellently in school, and the two girls are simply darlings. They are all healthy too. Sometimes I wish my parents were alive to see all this—that's about all. Is there anything that I should feel bad about? While I was going through all this in my mind Hyong Jin spoke out again.

"There you are! You cannot answer my question. So, I guess, after all, you're not so happy as you thought. Right?"

I tried to stop him, but he laughed. Soon he was serious again.

"Of course, I was joking! You're the happiest man, I dare say. But I am sure you haven't given much thought to what happiness is."

I could not agree to all he had said, but I kept silence as he sounded more serious than ever.

"You think I am unhappy, don't you? That's why you so often talk about happiness whenever you see me. But I wonder if you're not degenerated in a sense. What is happiness? You tell me. A beautiful wife?"

I mumbled something. I must admit, the way he presented things was so extraordinary that my answer was not to the point. Evidently, he knew it, too. He even sneered at what I said. He lit up a cigarette. He seemed trying to shake off the unpleasant note that he had evidently felt in my answer. After a puff or two he poured out:

"What you're saying is vulgar. I have no objection to a beautiful wife. Of course, I would like it. But beauty too, like youth, is gone all too soon. Then what is going to happen to your happiness? If I pursue your line further your wife will be no more young and beautiful. She is getting on in years! Serving the Party and revolution, the pride you take in your work, adorable children, a rich life—it seems you have made quite a list of musts. But do you think happiness is something so complicated? In our country from olden times there has been the saying that one should be blessed with Five Blessings to be a happy man. So how many Blessings do you have? Suppose, you are a woman. Then you would include in the Blessings the number of dresses you own too, wouldn't you?"

I was simply mad. Just like in our younger days we were in a heated argument. In this, however, I was from the beginning on the defensive. Hyong Jin had the initiative and, now and then, he even made a compromise to make me feel not too bad. I was all heated up. I felt somehow that if I lost in this argument, it would backfire and my dear friend would suffer greatly. But Hyong Jin was calm as ever.

"Well, Chol! It is my feeling that we look at happiness from outside only, very often not realizing the core of it. To a sensualist happiness may lie in a beautiful woman, to a Shylock money is the whole world. You don't give a hoot for your health because you're so healthy. But nothing is more precious than health to those who are sick. But I say all this is an illusion. Certain people think they would be happy if they get what they are after. It is only the satisfaction of one's greed. But I feel man should be able to transcend all such "happiness." And more so with us, as we are Communists, the man of men. So we must seek happiness as Communists. But don't misunderstand me. I don't pretend to be a puritan. I've no objection to a beautiful wife. Then I know one must have some means to gratify one's needs, and build a happy home."

"Well, if that's your idea, why can't you apply it to yourself? How you surprise me is this. I don't know whether you realize it or not, but you are like a Buddha!"

"I know you mean by that I should get married. I appreciate your interest. But it is something that doesn't go just according to order. All right, I am a Buddha as you say. But, as our old saying goes, Buddha cannot shave his head!"

At this point, our argument made a sudden turn, for which I was glad. Then I asked him in a more relaxed manner:

"Say, tell me this. I heard sometime ago you were quite interested in an assistant doctor. What happened to her?"

I guessed my question threw him off. For a moment he looked perplexed. But soon he collected himself, and even a smile played on his lips.

"I take my hat off to these blessed newspapermen. How in the heck did you know about that?"

"You're right. After all, I'm a newspaperman. But tell me first what has become of her?"

"She got married."

"Married? I thought you were..."

"Yeah! It's true I knew her very well, and in a sense I loved her, too, I suppose."

"Then what happened?"

"Oh, I don't know. As you think, I know, it may have been my fault."

A breeze sprang up, and the river began to rage, wetting our coats with a fine spray. Countless stars reflected in the water, crushed by the ripples, strewed mirrors all over the dark surface.

We turned around. Our pace was as leisurely as ever.

I tried to make out what Hyong Jin could possibly have meant a minute ago when he said "it might have been" his fault. Maybe, my friend was going over a lot of things in his mind, too. With his eyes fixed on the dark river, he just kept walking. Suddenly he broke the silence.

"Chol, of course you know what I mean. I feel that we can say we are happy when we hear our own steps in the great movement of the people towards progress. When we see ourselves in the ranks of the great Chollima march, helping others and being led by others, I call this happiness. What I am saying is this—true happiness is to be found when the happiness of individuals and that of society fuse completely into one. In that sense, I cannot say I have happiness. But there are times I am intoxicated with a sense of happiness."

His narration sounded like some sort of a confession. Yet I had to concede a point to him in this argument. I was the loser.

In the dim light I found something so noble in his face, something that I had not noticed all these forty years. There were, to be sure, a few lines on his face, and his temples were beginning to grey. (I told myself I was right. He should get busy and marry.) But I could read in his sun-tanned face sincerity, enthusiasm, optimism—the very features of the era.

Suddenly inviting me to a bench he said:

"I guess you want to hear about what happened between the assistant doctor and me, don't you? I know you'll come back to this unless I tell you all about it... But I am warning you. Leave your newspaper out. Not that it is anything worth printing."

His words recalled to my mind his wife. Now I hoped—though I had no way of knowing how the story would turn out—no shadow would darken his heart again. I sat down by him quietly.

For sometime he sat staring at the clouds gathering in the sky on the other side of the river. Eventually he started the story.

His story, told in the first person, ran something like this: (To be continued)

Korean Cultural History:

Formation of Ancient States (4)

(Continued from the previous issue)

The Korean progenitors created excellent culture, one of the oldest and most brilliant civilizations in the Asian continent, and left their footprints on the history of the nation.

They inhabited vast areas from the Korean Peninsula to Liao-tung, comprising Liao-hsi areas in China and the districts along the shore of Palhae and the basin of Sungari River.

The Korean ancestors were divided into three along the tribal lines: *ye*, *maek* and *han*. The three tribes had the same language and customs.

At the end of the primitive communities, came the slave-owning economic system, giving rise to the ancient class states, slave-owning states on the Korean Peninsula: Kochoson, Puyo and Chinguk.

The first ancient state of Korea was Kochoson which was established by the *ye* tribe in the 8th-7th centuries B.C. in the vast areas encompassing the basin of the Liao River and the northwestern part of Korea.

There were a large number of tribes. They were related by blood to the people of Kochoson and spoke the same language and followed the same customs.

Kochoson emerged as a slave-owning power at about the 4th century B.C., pressing its Chinese neighbor state Youn hard politically and militarily.

Youn had planned for a long time to attack Kochoson. A surprise attack was made on the western area of Kochoson in the latter period of the 3rd century B.C. and that area lost to Youn.

While fiercely fighting for the recovery of the lost territory, Kochoson made its effort to restore internal order. King of those days was King Pu, who was succeeded by Prince Chun. The new king retook the lost territory in 210s B.C.

Repeated fightings flared up between the two, resulting in sharp class confrontations in Kochoson.

Infightings within the ruling class also grew more intensive.

Man, one of aristocrats, pulled off a coup, expelled the king and installed himself as a new King in 194 B.C.

In the Man dynasty, Kochoson had an active trade relationships with Han (the earlier Han). In the end of the 2nd century B.C., their relationship were at the lowest ebb due to the open aggressive policy of Han.

In 109 B.C. Han mounted an aggressive war on Kochoson. About 50,000 men of Han made thrusts into Kochoson. Despite the popular resistance, Kochoson went to ruin in 108 B.C., because of the splits within the aristocrats and the traitorous acts of insurgents.

The capital of Kochoson was Wanggumson in the basin of the Liao River.

Since the demise of Kochoson, Kochoson drove the Han forces from its territory through the stubborn struggles in the middle of the 1st century B.C. In this course, feudalistic forces rapidly grew in those areas and small feudalistic states were formed.

On the other hand, at the beginning of the 2nd century B.C. some aristocrats deprived of their posts by Man, moved to the Taedong River basin and built a new state in collusion with the local force in that area.

The state was called Rakrang and its territory reached from the Chongchon River in Pyongan Province to the Raesong River in Hwanghae Province.

Puyo was formed in the 5-4th century B.C. by the *maek* tribe, strongly influenced by Kochoson politically and culturally. It became gradually independent. Its heart was the basin of the Sungari River, the northern area of Changchun. Originally there had lived the *ye* tribe, then the *maek* tribe moved to live there and formed a new state.

Puyo thrived as a farming and cattle-breeding state. Horses were among their noted products.

Puyo reportedly possessed of a ruling machine and a severe law system, with the ruling circles opposed to each other. The classes of Puyo were divided into *ka* (aristocrats), *homin* (the middle and small slave owners), *haho*(poor farmers) and *nubi* (slaves).

Puyo was divided into five districts and its central district was directly ruled by the king. Other four districts were ruled by big aristocrats owning a large number of slaves—*maga*, *uga*, *choga* and *kuga*.

In the beginning of Anno Domini, Puyo in the Taeso dynasty made its efforts to expand its territory and tide over the social crisis. However, Puyo declined, threatened by the newly-built feudalistic state Koguryo in the basin of the Amrok River to the southeastern area of Puyo.

In the 1st century B.C. after the death of King Taeso, Puyo came under the sway of Koguryo in 494 B.C.

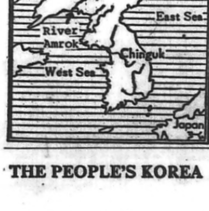
As early as the formation of Puyo, the *han* tribe lived to the south of Kochoson. The *han* tribe was consisted of three *hans—mahan*, *pyonhan* and *chinhan*. With mahan, a most prosperous tribe, as a mainstay, a slave-owning state Chinguk (the 4-3rd centuries B.C.) was established. Chinguk was located in the northeast Korea and bordered on Kochoson. Its capital was Woljiguk (present Chiksan, South Chungchong Province).

Chinguk was blessed with mellow weather and clement topography, suited to the production of various kinds of crops such as rice. In the 3-2nd century B.C. its farming reached a high level. Chinguk had exerted a strong cultural influence upon the southern area of Japan. Chinguk extensively exchanged with Kochoson in economy and culture.

Later, Chinguk was divided into many local forces always at discord with each other. Of them Paekjae was in the ascendency. It frequently engaged in battles with *mahan*, a major force of Chinguk and at last Chinguk was annexed to Paekjae at about the middle of the 1st century A.D.

Each Korean ancient state created its own history in the different areas, but were closely connected with each other economically and culturally. Therefore, they had many cultural things in common.

According to a legend on the formation of Paekjae written in *Samguk sagi* (History of the Three Kingdoms), the first King of Paekjae Onjo was a son of the first king of Koguryo Chumong. (To be continued)



Ancient Korean states at about 3rd century B.C.

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